

August 30, 1956

Dr. Wolfram Heumann
Botanisches Institute
Braunschweig, Germany

Dear Dr. Heumann:

I was happy to receive your letter of August 27th and to learn of the progress of your plans. You will have to make your own decisions as to the most productive time for your visit, with the following considerations:

1. My wife and I are planning an extensive trip ourselves next summer (to Australia). If these plans are effected, we will be away from the laboratory from June 1 to October 1 1957. If you did not come, say, until December 1, that would leave only six months during which we could work closely together. However, the laboratory will not be closed; in addition to my students and assistants, there will also be Asst. Professor Morton (whose specialty is in human genetics, but is working here for the time).

2. On the other hand, next year would be a particularly convenient and appropriate time for cytological studies, as I will be deeply involved in them myself in connection with conjugation and also the genetic properties of protoplasts in *E. coli*.

May I offer the following alternatives for your consideration:

1) that you make every possible effort [as I am sure you will anyhow] to leave as early, say, as October. If you wished to stay at Wisconsin beyond June 1, you might find it convenient to spend the summer months either travelling in the U.S. or perhaps working with Professor Wilson. I cannot speak for him on the availability of laboratory space, but I know he would be interested in a demonstration of some of your reports on nitrogen-fixation.

2) that if you cannot come here in October, come in January, or whenever would be convenient for you, and plan to extend your visit for a full year. From January to June you could work with me, from June to September travel or make arrangements to work with Professor Wilson, or some other plan, and come back to my laboratory upon my return, for the remainder of your visit.

3) postpone your visit until the fall of 1957.

As I have already indicated, you will be welcome under any of these arrangements and you will have to make the best accommodation to your own needs.

I am enclosing a preliminary note on conjugation in *E. coli*. It is important to emphasize that these observations achieve their full significance because of the demonstration that the conjugation is directly correlated with the exchange of genetic markers. I am hopeful we can make a comparable test with your material.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg